

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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R 240351Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0805

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 2720

FOR EA/IMS HEAVNER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, SN

SUBJ: STATUS OF ANZUK FACILITIES IN SINGAPORE

FOLLOWING DISSOLUTION OF ANZUK COMMAND

REF: HEAVNER LETTER TO GRANT DTD JUNE 10, 1974

1. DISSOLUTION OF ANZUK COMMAND HAS BEEN TENTATIVELY SET FOR DECEMBER 14, 1974. AT THAT TIME UK WILL EXERCISE COMPLETE CONTROL OVER ANZUK NAVAL BASE FACILITIES, INCLUDING STORES BASIN, FUEL FARM, COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES AND TERROR BARRACKS AREA. ALTHOUGH UK WILL HAVE FULL CONTROL OF THESE FACILITIES, HMG WOULD OF COURSE CLEAR ANY POLITICALLY SENSITIVE USE OF THEM WITH GOS.

2. NEW ZEALAND FAR EAST FORCES HAVE ALREADY ESTABLISHED SEPARATE COMMAND. HEADQUARTERS AT KANGOW, PERSONNEL LOCATED AT DIEPPE BARRACKS. LIAISON BETWEEN UK AND NEW ZEALAND FORCES WILL BE ESTABLISHED FOLLOWING DISSOLUTION ANZUK COMMAND.

3. WHEN AUSTRALIAN GROUND FORCES PULLED OUT IN LATE 1973 AND EARLY 1974, ALL FACILITIES USED
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ENTIRELY BY GOA REVERTED TO GOS INCLUDING MOST OF

KANGOW BARRACKS. FACILITIES USED BY GOA IN CON-
JUNCTION WITH OTHER ANZUK FORCES WERE SUBJECT TO
NEGOTIATION BETWEEN UK, GNZ, AND GOS. NONE OF
THESE INVOLVED NAVAL FACILITIES. THESE NEGOTIATIONS
HAVE NOT BEEN ENTIRELY COMPLETED.

4. IF UK FORCES ARE COMPLETELY WITHDRAWN, GOS
ANTICIPATES TAKING CONTROL OF ALL FACILITIES
OCCUPIED BY BRITISH. IN VIEW OF SIZE AND COMPLEXITY
OF STORES BASIN AND QUANTITY OF STORES KEPT THERE,
TAKE-OVER MIGHT REQUIRE 2 TO 3 YEARS TO ACCOMPLISH.
IT IS DIFFICULT TO JUDGE AT THIS TIME WHAT FACILITIES
WOULD BE USED BY GOS FOR COMMERCIAL EXPLOITATION
AND WHAT WOULD BE RETAINED FOR SINGAPORE ARMED FORCES.
GRANT

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